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**COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS ON THE
TRANSPORT OF DANGEROUS GOODS**

**Sub-Committee of Experts on the
Transport of Dangerous Goods
(Thirteenth session,
Geneva, 7-17 July 1997,
agenda item 7)**

OTHER BUSINESS

Application for consultative status by the International Confederation of Plastics Packaging Manufacturers (ICPP)

Note by the secretariat

1. The secretariat reproduces below an application for consultative status received from ICPP.

2. Attention is drawn to the fact that two member associations of ICPP (European Plastics Converters - EuPC and Society of Platics Industry - SPI) had previously applied for consultative status (see ST/SG/AC.10/C.3/18, para. 219 for SPI and ST/SG/AC.10/C.3/R.757 and ST/SG/AC.10/C.3/24 para. 107 for EuPC). Their applications had not been supported on the grounds that these associations represented interests which were basically national or regional, and they were invited to join up to represent the standpoint of the plastics industry worldwide.

3. The Sub-Committee may wish to consider the application of ICPP in the light of the information provided in the annexed letter.

ANNEX

ICPP

International Confederation of Plastics Packaging Manufacturers

President: Edward S. Gunn
General Secretary: Dr. Jürgen Bruder
Location: ICPP
c/o IK Industrieverband Kunststoffverpackungen e. V.
Kaiser-Friedrich-Promenade 89, D-61348 Bad Homburg
Tel. (0049) 6172 - 9266 76, FAX - 9266 70

Mr. Olivier Kervella
Transport Division
United Nations Organisation
Economic Commission for Europe
Palais des Nations
CH-1211 Geneva
Switzerland

18 April 1997 Dr. Br. / lz

Application for Accredited Observer Status with the United Nations Committee of Experts and Sub Committee on the Transport of Dangerous Goods

Dear Mr. Kervella,

The International Confederation of Plastics Packaging Manufacturers (ICPP) requests for the status as an accredited observer with the UN Committee of Experts and the Sub Committee on the Transport of Dangerous Goods. ICPP is the federation of 22 regional and national associations in America and Europe. All members represent approximately 500 manufacturers of plastics packaging for dangerous goods in 33 countries world wide.

The member companies produce all types of plastics packaging covered by Chapter 9 (drums, jerricans, boxes, woven bags, film bags) and plastics IBCs covered by Chapter 16 (rigid, composite with plastics inner receptacles, flexible).

Members EuPC A. Dangis, Av. de Cortenbergh 66, B-1000 Brussels
IK Dr. J. Bruder, Kaiser-Friedrich-Promenade 89, D-61348 Bad Homburg
SPI J. C. Malloy, 1801 K Street, NW, Suite 600 K, US Washington D.C., 20006-1301

The member associations of ICPP are:

- European Plastics Converters (EuPC) with 20 national associations from Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom.

- IK Industrieverband Kunststoffverpackungen e. V. with member companies in Germany and the neighbour countries

- Society of Plastics Industry (SPI) based in the United States, with members in the US, Canada, Mexico, and Colombia.

We intend to include further national and – if available – regional organisations in the work of ICPP.

ICPP represents the world wide plastics packaging industry in the field of international standardization (ISO) and the transport of dangerous goods in plastics packaging.

ICPP operates through a council structure formed by representatives from the regional associations of America and Europe. The presidency of ICPP is rotated every four years among Office Bearers of the member associations supported by a permanent General Secretary.

ICPP kindly asks the Committee of Experts to consider the application of ICPP favourably in view of the extent of representation and the technical knowledge which is concentrated within ICPP.

ICPP is prepared to support the UN Sub Committee in the elaboration and the amendment of the recommendations for plastics packaging for the transport of dangerous goods.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Jürgen Bruder
General Secretary

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COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS ON THE
TRANSPORT OF DANGEROUS GOODS

Sub-Committee of Experts on the
Transport of Dangerous Goods
(Thirteenth session,
Geneva, 7-17 July 1997,
agenda item (5 (a))

GLOBAL HARMONIZATION OF SYSTEMS OF CLASSIFICATION AND LABELLING OF CHEMICALS

General

Report on the Second Session of the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety

Transmitted by the Expert of the United States of America

The second session of the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety (IFCS) was held in Ottawa, Canada from 10 to 14 February 1997. Participants included delegates from 83 countries, 18 non-governmental organizations and 11 intergovernmental organizations. The agenda for the meeting included a broad range of chemical safety issues including:

- International assessment of chemical risks
- Harmonization of classification and labelling chemicals
- Information exchange on toxic chemicals and chemical risks
- Establishment of risk education programmes
- Strengthening of national capabilities and capacities for management of chemicals and emergency issues

Of particular interest to the UN Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods (UN CETDG) and the International Maritime Organization DSC Sub-Committee was the issue of Harmonization of Classification and Labelling.

Three papers provided the basis for discussion of this agenda item:

(1) Progress made toward a Globally Harmonized System (GHS) for the classification and labelling of chemicals (IFCS/FORUM-II/97.12w Rev.1).

(2) Harmonization of classification and labelling of chemicals, progress report on the ongoing technical work.

(3) THOUGHT STARTER on International Instrument for a Globally Harmonized System (GHS) for the classification and labelling of chemicals.

Discussion on Document (1)

In document (1) the IOMC Coordinating Group for the Harmonization of Chemical Classification Systems (CG/HCCS) responded to instructions given at the Second Intersessional Group Meeting (ISG-2) of the IFCS held in Canberra, Australia in 1996. It was reported that work on harmonization of classification criteria was proceeding at the UN CETDG and OECD, and that completion of harmonized criteria would likely occur in late 1997. The IOMC CG/HCCS itself had begun work on classifying mixtures on the basis of a U.S. document summarizing existing methodologies. This document is being considered by the various stakeholders. An inventory report on hazard communication (labelling and safety data sheets) is also under development.

In response to a request from ISG-2 the IOMC CG/HCCS provided a clarification of the scope of the harmonization effort. However, based on comments from a number of delegates it was agreed that the clarification should be considered further in the light of concerns expressed about the application of the criteria to certain groups of chemicals. (i.e., food additions and pharmaceuticals).

It was also reported that in order to increase awareness the CG/HCCS was creating a web page on the Internet.

Document (1) -Specifically asked that the IFCS take action on the following points:

(a) To indicate whether the harmonized criteria should be implemented through either a binding or non-binding instrument;
(b) Recommend strong national coordination;
(c) Recommend that countries assign high priority to the work;
(d) Recommend that increased resources be applied to completing this work.

The IFCS supported the development of a non binding instrument although it was agreed that this should not rule out the development of a binding instrument further into the future.
The IFCS also endorsed points (b), (c) and (d).

Document (2) - No specific discussion was held on this document.

Document (3) - This document was prepared by this UK with the intent of initiating discussion on how the harmonized criteria could be implemented as an international non binding instrument. The specific proposal in the UK papers was to reorganize the UN Committee into two sub-committees including one specifically dealing with global harmonization of classification and labelling and a second one dealing with transport issues. Both sub-committees would be under a single Committee. In its introduction of the paper, the UK stated that it's proposal was an example of how this GHS might be implemented and maintained. The U.K. proposal was based on the constraints of countries not wanting to develop a costly binding instrument and not wanting to establish a new international organization.

The U.K. suggested that this proposal, along with others that might be developed, be considered by the IOMC in its deliberations on how to implement and maintain a non binding instrument. A number of delegates spoke in favor of the proposed U.K. approach and spoke favorable of the work of the UN CETDG. It was agreed that the U.K. paper along with a U.S. paper submitted to ISG-2 be considered by IOMC CG/HCCS.